

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

- **Hardin:**

Several evictions of rental properties, rental homes specifically, owners throwing out resident's possessions or refusing to fix damaged property for continued use.

- **Dewitt:**

FEMA has set up a DRS and is searching for a location to set up a DRC. Also, E-mailed an EPA approved Guidance Documents to Ms. Cyndi Smith.

- **Calhoun:**

Based on the comments from the DRCs, EPA should have deployed to the communities prior to the recovery phase.

- **Polk**

**Medical device needs for residence**

**ALPHA****COUNTY: Dewitt****SUMMARY:**

- Called Dewitt county EOC number. The EOC for Dewitt County is demobilized. Now, Ms. Cyndi Smith (361 275 0878) is working individually from the field. Damage in the county includes: downed trees, power outage (currently has been restored), approximately 50 homes flooded from river. FEMA has set up a DRS and is searching for a location to set up a DRC. Also, E-mailed an EPA approved Guidance Documents to Ms. Cyndi Smith.
- Called the EOC office in the City of Yoakum in Dewitt County and found that it is demobilized. Contacted Mr. Mark Hercheck (361 293 5125), Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Yoakum. Mr. Hercheck described damages caused by Harvey as relatively minor and limited to damaged tree limbs and some disruption of electric services which was repaired in less than 24 hours. Current recovery activities include debris collection and disposal. Mr. Hercheck also said that almost 60 percent of the debris has been cleared.

**COUNTY: Gonzales****SUMMARY:**

- Called Gonzales County EOC. This EOC is demobilized. Contacted county Emergency Coordinator, Jimmy Harless (830 672 6209). Mr. Harless stated that there was relatively minimal damage in Gonzales County. Most damages were from wind and rain. There was very minor flooding along tributaries like some farmhouses. Mr.

Harless also stated that FEMA is providing some individual assistance to approximately 200 residents of the county.

**COUNTY:** Goliad

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**SUMMARY:**

- Visited the Goliad County DRC, which was located at the Fair Grounds in Goliad, TX. A FEMA Representative stated that they have been on scene for two weeks. They have received about 250 families needing assistance. Most damage reported was wind damage. FEMA appreciated us being there and posted some of our informational flyers that the EPA had. The Mitigation Specialist, Ms. Geneva Wilson, (202-288-3228) mentioned that there were only a few residences with septic tank and mold issues. She wanted to know about the county debris pickup.
- Visited the Goliad County EOC, which was located in the Franklin Street Annex in Goliad, TX. The POC there was not in her office today. A representative in the tax office next door mentioned that she had demobilized and referred residence to go to the DRC for assistance. We left some informational flyers on her desk.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENT:**

- FEMA seems to have the county under control and need no assistance from the EPA at this time.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

- Debris pickup date.

**COUNTY:** Karnes

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**SUMMARY:**

- Called the Karnes County EOC. We wanted permission to come visit the county EOC and the clerk said it was not necessary. The former location of the EOC was in the Karnes County Courthouse located in Karnes City, TX and the court clerk informed us that Mr. Shelby Dupnic (830-299-1524), was now in charge of the EOC. He is located in Helena, TX.
- Called Mr. Dupnic and he informed us that he did not really need our resources. FEMA has already been to his town and about 80 residences had registered with FEMA for resources. Nearly all damages in Helena was wind damage. He has a lot of debris in his town.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENT:**

- FEMA seems to have the county under control and need no assistance from the EPA at this time.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

- Debris pickup date.

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**COUNTY:** Calhoun

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**SUMMARY:**

- Visited the Calhoun Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Calhoun County FEMA DRC (DRC-4) at 211 South Ann Street, Port Lavaca. Met with the Emergency Manager, LaDonna Thigpen (361-553-4400) and with Michael Pfeifer, Calhoun County Judge (361-553-4600). According to Ms. Thigpen, the EOC was activated for nine days, but continues to assist the communities as needed.
- The city of Lacava suffered mostly wind damage, with lots of roof issues. Some areas were flooded but not to the same extent as Houston. Electrical power was restored after 10 days. Landlines were lost before internet service. FEMA and the Salvation Army provided hot meals to the residents; and, buses are provided to transport the displaced to shelters, their homes, and other locations as needed. There are some private wells in the area. Texas A&M Agralife is conducting free well sampling.
- The second stop was at the Calhoun County DRC located at the Calhoun County Library, 200 W. Mahan, in Lavaca, where over 100 citizens are assisted each day. The FEMA Lead is Harry Anthos (732-804-8295). Mr. Anthos stated that EPA could have a seat at the table if there was something to offer; however, this would have to be coordinated through their chain of command at the Joint Field Office (JFO). Citizens in the community have requested assistance with price gauging at apartment complexes, and getting kicked out of apartments without having a place to go. Mr. Anthos also stated that 40 additional DRCs will be activated in the near future.
- An American Bar Association table was observed at the DRC that provided Disaster Legal Services that include bankruptcy, contract and contractor problems, landlord/tenant and housing issues, wills, insurance claims, and FEMA benefits.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENT:**

- Based on the comments from the DRCs, EPA should have deployed to the communities prior to the recovery phase.
- LaDonna Thingpen, Calhoun County EOC, Port Lavaca, requested our handouts electronically so that they can post on their Facebook page. Their FB page has received over 4000 hits for information on how and where to obtain assistance.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

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**COUNTY:** Victoria

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**SUMMARY:**

- Contacted Victoria County Emergency Managers and spoke with Deputy Emergency Manager, David Gonzales, to see if additional information was needed from the Agency. CLs Michelle Kerr and Carol Ropski had previous met with Mr. Gonzales and

Emergency Manager, Rick McBrayer, on September 8. Michelle Kerr previously sent an email to Mr. McBrayer with the EPA approved handouts attached. **Mr. Gonzales informed CLs that they printed the handouts that EPA provided via email and have been handing them out to the community and providing them to the public through social media. He stated that the EPA provided information was very helpful to the affected community. He thanked the CLs for following up and offering additional assistance.**

- Visited the Victoria County FEMA DRC at the Pattie Dobson Victoria Public Health Center.
- Spoke with the FEMA lead Sam Smith (732-804-9846). Vicky Lau is the DRC Manager, and was off today. Facility has been very busy.
- Spoke with Dennis Lloyd of DRC Mitigation. Provided copies of *Homeowner's and Renter's Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters* in English and Spanish to add to the collection of materials that he was providing to the residents of Victoria County.
- The facility is well staffed, well provisioned, and well attended by local citizens.
- CLs observed many roads that were closed in Victoria.

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**COUNTY:** Jackson

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**SUMMARY:**

- Travelled to Jackson County EOC on 111 West Main Street, Edna, Texas, at the Jackson County Courthouse in Room 104. The Emergency Manager is Alan Friedrich (361-782-1743). **He told us that FEMA has a DRC location at the Edna High School. Jackson County suffered some wind damage (99% of it was vegetation).** Mr. Friedrich told about a HUD owned housing development that was damaged. The tenants were advised to apply for individual FEMA aid. The complex manager was interested in applying for aid for the HUD owned building. The county posts information on their Facebook page regarding mold remediation. The team emailed EPA approved fact sheets that were previously provided to Victoria County to Ms. Lori McLennan.

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**COUNTY:** Lavaca

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**SUMMARY:**

- Traveled to the FEMA DRC at the Edna, Texas, High School Cowboy Memorial Stadium (**this DRC is not listed on the "Hurricane Harvey 2017 EPA Response Disaster Recovery Centers & Emergency Operations Centers"**). We spoke with Vance Murphy (678-278-5183). FEMA has been in this location for three weeks (since August 31). After meeting with up to 100 people per day initially are now down to meeting with approximately 25 people per day. There are no reported septic or sewer overflows in the county. We discussed the HUD housing question mentioned earlier. Mr. Murphy

was familiar with the case and had referred the HUD facility manager to the JFO for further information. While at this location the Small Business Association (SBA) approached the team and shared the guidance they were distributing.

**COUNTY: Jefferson**

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- Participated in the 8:30 a.m. daily conference call.
- Strategic Meeting to review list of contacts/leads and plan action moving forward.
- Teleconference with OEJTIA Director about temporary debris transfer stations near EJ communities.
- Requested information from OEJTIA Director about Valero storage tank fire to share with community advocates in Port Arthur
- Completed a list of things that should be considered by all Community Liaisons when engaging EJ communities requested by the OEJTIA Director
- Followed up with Hilton Kelley about actions EPA was taking in regards to debris transfer locations approved by TCEQ and visited site.
- Provided links to Ike Mills about FEMA job opportunities for community members
- Provided contacts to Councilmember Ward III for Texas Housers and Texas Legal Aid
- Contacted Norman Bellard, of Lamar State University to arrange appointment
- Contacted International Student Affairs of Lamar State University to arrange appointment
- Contacted FEMA regarding available support for individuals without legal status and children considered “dreamers”
- Connected Vietnamese community to Legacy Clinic services

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

- Legacy Community Health is looking for opportunities to reach more community members that need health assistance. This information should be shared widely via the web: [www.legacycommunityhealth.org](http://www.legacycommunityhealth.org)

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

- Dumping of debris right across the street from homes is still an issue. Corner of 19<sup>th</sup> and Nashville. The contractors stated that they have permission city of Port Arthur and TCEQ.

**UPCOMING:**

- Meeting with the Johnnie Roberts, Administrative Director of Jefferson County Health Department at 10:00 AM, in Beaumont
- Meeting with Norman Bellard, Executive Assistant to the President, Lamar University at 11:00 AM in Beaumont
- Visiting the new FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Port Arthur, TX.
- Will continue research service providers and connect resources to needs
- Islamic Center would like us to join them when they pass out supplies again on Saturday September 23, 2017.

## **Port Arthur/Beaumont**

### **COUNTY: Polk**

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- Participated in the 8:30 a.m. daily conference call.
- Strategic Meeting to review list of contacts/leads and plan action moving forward.
- Met with Larry Pitts Emergency Manager Coordinator for Polk County
  - Property and Roadway damage
  - No wind damage, all water damage
  - Residential homes effected are mainly Trinity River and dam adjacent, in Goodrich City
  - TCEQ has already assessed the debris.
  - Low amount of debris to be removed – estimated one-day haul
  - County has utilized social media in order to inform residence of available programs
  - Red Cross and FEMA are available for assistance at the Livingston Library  
10am to 6pm Monday thru Friday  
10am to 2pm Saturday
  - Resources are stretched thin but community has pulled together for recovery efforts.
- Visited the Livingston Library and Courtney Comstock, Assistant Emergency Manager Coordinator for Polk County
  - Toured facility
  - FEMA connecting with residence
  - Lone star food card available for qualifying residence for one week of food
  - Texas Workforce Commission assisting residence with unemployment
  - Red Cross to launch new website with information tomorrow
  - Debris removal has required modifications to contract including monitoring and sorting. TCEQ has approved removal
  - Livingston has approximately 5000 residences and it is estimated that 1100 have been effected by the flood waters
  - Water well testing fees have been waved for residence along the Trinity River
  - Free TDAP and Flu shots are available this Friday

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Larry Pitts, the Emergency Management Coordinator in Polk County commented that the county is recovering well and stated that they are in “good shape compared to other counties”

#### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

Medical device needs for residence

#### **UPCOMING:**

- Paula will continue research for the Catholic Diocese, FEMA, and service providers

- Reconnect to Hilton Kelley, to follow-up on concerns with debris in EJ Communities and EPA's response to the Valero storage tank fire.
- Islamic Center would like us to join them when they pass out supplies again on Saturday September 23, 2017.
- Continue to connect with Polk and Harris Counties for more information

## **Port Arthur/Beaumont**

**COUNTY: Hardin**

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### **SUMMARY:**

- Participated in the 8:30 a.m. daily conference call.
- Talked with Theresa Wigley, Emergency Management Coordinator for Hardin County via phone. Meeting set for tomorrow 10am.
- Visited Lumberton High School, which is an NTG safe Shelter, FEMA and Legal Aid had set up areas to communicate with residents. Spoke with Gretchen Scoggins, Coordinator of Special Programs and Communications of the school.
  - Discussed several areas severely affected by Harvey, FEMA is said to be making rounds in these areas
    - Off of Rt 96
    - Sour Lake
    - Pinewood
    - Areas between FM421 & 105
  - Asked for info to be disseminated to community. Have a very strong and effective means to communicate with most residents in area.
    - Specifically list of official DRC and agencies which can help those affected
- Drove through some areas of Hardin County, took notes on locations to visit and look into.
  - Crestwood Baptist Church
  - Pinewood Fire Station
  - Farm Bureau

### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

- Several asking for more information regarding FEMA and locations to get help or disaster response for affected persons.
  - It was suggested to compile general list of all DRCs in the area to be posted for the public and widely distributed
- Questions regarding renters rights and legal options for persons being evicted

### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

- Several evictions of rental properties, rental homes specifically, owners throwing out resident's possessions or refusing to fix damaged property for continued use.

## COUNTY: Jasper and Newton Counties

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The remaining Team Jasper/Newton members were sited at the Jasper County Courthouse Annex where the FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance team continued to register flood victims for FEMA assistance. FEMA will open a full Disaster Response Center Wednesday, 9/20/17, with EPA and Small Business Administration personnel participating. Discussions are occurring with the EPA with county health officials. Jasper/Newton Community Liaison team will staff both centers but work toward sustaining the operations without CLs participating.

### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The Health Department still would like any information regarding private **aerobic treatment systems**. It is my understanding that Robert Houston in Region 6 was probably the appropriate contact. The systems we are talking about are private systems on private property. They have questions regarding how to decontaminate systems that failed during the storm and flooding. The question is whether EPA or TCEQ have documents explaining how to get the aerobic systems up and running properly after they were contaminated by flood water.

### COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- **Debris is still piled along the streets and roads throughout both counties. We have not heard confirmation on whether a contract has been let by the counties to pick up debris. It also does not appear that debris is being segregated from building and construction debris.** Questions remain regarding hazardous waste being reported throughout the county that needs to be investigated, possibly by EPA CLs.
- Roads, bridges and infrastructure continues to be a concern in both counties with many of the roads that are normally used for school bus routes in need of drastic repair after being washed out by extensive flooding. **Temporary fixes still provide safety concerns, especially when washed out roads have holes that require 10-15 dump trucks of rock to make them passable.**

### TEAM CONCERNS

- Team needs to have a better understanding of what is happening operationally in designated counties. Situational awareness allows resources to be used efficiently while also meeting the community needs in partnership with other agencies.
- Old-fashioned paper road maps have proved necessary in rural areas where there is little, sporadic or no wireless cell phone coverage.



<b>BRAVO</b>
<b>Bastrop</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visited with Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management and the City of Bastrop Emergency Manager.</li> <li>• Visited the City of Smithville City Manager</li> <li>• Visited the newly opened DRC in Bastrop on Fawcett St.</li> </ul>
<b>Brazoria</b>
<p>Met with Melanie Oldham, an environmental/public health/EJ activist in Freeport. Melanie has a network of approximately 600 individuals</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY CONCERNS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The status of GulfCo Marine Superfund site;</li> <li>• Tosquito spraying when children are heading to school in the morning – and dates and timing of spraying;</li> <li>• The lack of mobile air monitoring; and</li> <li>• The timing of the county’s distribution of vital resident-re-entry info</li> </ul>
<b>Colorado</b>
<p>Met with Donald Warschak, City Manager, (<a href="mailto:drw89@columbustexas.net">drw89@columbustexas.net</a>) , 979-732-2366 Ext. 223, and Richard LaCourse, Code Enforcement, (<a href="mailto:lacourser@columbustexas.net">lacourser@columbustexas.net</a>), 979-732-2366, at the City of Columbus City Hall located at 605 Spring St, Columbus, TX 78934</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado River topped bank</li> <li>• 200 volunteers came together and began the recovery work</li> <li>• Coordinated with the County OEC and the Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Two apartment buildings (Magnolia Place) in a lower income neighborhood were impacted by flood the owner did not have flood insurance.</li> <li>• RV park and City maintenance shop also impacted</li> <li>• Using contractors to remove debris using dumpsters</li> <li>• 90% of active debris removal has been completed</li> </ul> <p>City’s WWTP was encroached by the river.  National Guard and TCEQ checked on the WWTP immediately after the storm  FEMA provided funds (75% of \$125,000) for temporary stabilization of the riverbank,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most residents on municipal drinking water</li> <li>• Visited the County’s temporary Debris Management site located at 900 E St. Charles St. Weimar, TX (Texas Disposal Systems transfer station)</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMUNITY CONCERNS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term riverbank stabilization behind the City’s WWTP is a huge concern. City was working with the ACE through the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) to begin a study, The City is doing preliminary engineering and a geotechnical crew is conducting soil borings. Consensus was that spending money on a long-term solution versus continuing to pay for temporary measures is preferred.</li> </ul>

- **100 people were receiving transitional assistance, that number has dropped to 75 now.**

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

City of Columbus WWTP was flooded but continued to operate. **Has EPA evaluated the City of Columbus' WWTP?**

#### **Fayette**

- Met with Shawn Raborn, City Manager of LaGrande, Texas. City has formed a Long Range Recovery program.
  - He ordered roll-off bins in advance of the hurricane.
- Visited the Long Term Recovery Center. The Center requested mold information.

#### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

Housing those displaced and clearing the destroyed area

#### **Galveston**

Staffed the two Galveston County DRCs

#### **Harris**

- Visited the new DRC that opened today in Harris County at the Church without Walls.

#### **Lee**

- Visited Lee County Office of Emergency Management afternoon 9/18. This County had flooding in a trailer park community at County Roads 220, 233 and 2332.
- Visited 2 CBOs listed in Harris County - The African Business Council of Texas and the Texas Organizing Project.
- Visited the Webster Disaster Recovery Center (DCR) to discuss information with the FEMA on Mitigation contact.